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*Written Testimony of Katie Novotny in Opposition of HB1021*

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February 27, 2022

I am a member of multiple gun rights organizations. I am a certified Range Safety Officer and an avid firearms collector. I oppose HB1021.

To start with, this bill does not define “licensed dealer”. Based on the language of the bill, I presume this to be an FFL holder. This bill does not specify. Based on this assumption, these regulations would apply to an FFL 03, collector of curios and relics.

FFL 03’s are people who have collections, generally located within a home. We already fall under a number of regulations put forth by the ATF. I can imagine the questions in my neighborhood if I suddenly installed bars on all of the windows in my house and bollards around the outside of my home. I’m sure my friends and family would enjoy the audio and video recording equipment placed in my home. If I have firearms stored in my bedroom, would I need this surveillance equipment there as well? Or is it only for surveillance of firearms that fall under my license?

I investigated the price to install security bars on my windows and doors. I am unable to get an exact price without having a contractor out and I do not wish to waste their time. Home Advisor has an information page on this topic. <https://www.homeadvisor.com/cost/safety-and-security/install-security-bars/#security-bar-installation-cost-calculator> According to this website, bars for windows that open, as most in homes do, starts at \$220 per window. In case of a fire or emergency, bars that open is a necessity. For options that may be reasonably attractive, they easily reach \$1000 each. Installation will likely run about \$150 per window, or \$300 for large windows. Security bars for basement egress windows range from \$150-\$300. A security door is likely to cost me about \$1400. Do I need bars on my second story windows or just the ground floor? It wouldn’t be hard to use a ladder so I presume all windows will need this.

Then we get to bollards. I cannot find a bollard that can go into grass and dirt, so to begin with I would need to pave or concrete around the perimeter of my home. How far apart or close together do these bollards need to be? What standard must they meet? The Article “A Rational Method to Design Vehicular Barriers” <https://www.structuremag.org/?p=4717> goes into detail on some of the concerns about designing barriers such as bollards. Vehicle speed plays a large role in what is effective. How thick of pipe do I need, what gauge pipe? Concrete filled? What height and buried to what depth? Secured in what material? What size or weight vehicle must it be capable of stopping and at what speed? If I opted to use large planters, what size, weight, and construction must they be? This bill does not specify.

These concerns apply to traditional brick and mortar stores as well as my own home. Presumably the reasoning behind this bill is to stop the smash and grab robberies that we have seen at gun shops and convenience stores to steal firearms and ATM’s. There are quite a few problems with this approach. This bill assumes that criminals are dumb and that they won’t adapt to new security

measures. People desperate and determined enough to steal vehicles, often large vehicles, to ram into a business, are not likely to be stupid enough to not figure out a new approach, such as using a chain to rip down the window coverings, or using a larger, heavier vehicle at a higher speed to defeat bollards.

Recently J and K Pawn, located in Havre de Grace Maryland was the victim of this type of smash and grab robbery. The building has window and door grates, and large planters surrounding the building, yet the thieves were still able to smash a vehicle into the small area of the door and steal firearms. This was not the first attempt as a year earlier there was an unsuccessful attempt. Was this a case of the shop being surveilled for the future attempt? Possibly. The successful attempt was well coordinated with multiple people and multiple vehicles. Generally stolen vehicles are used for these crimes, and that was the case here as well. These people have no hesitation in destroying these vehicles to serve their purpose. I presume they will have no difficulty in obtaining a chain and some shackles or hooks as well.

Because of these and many more reasons, I request an unfavorable report.

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